

Exhibit No. 9
 Date 2-19-07
 Bill No. SB 458

Dear Education Committee;

My husband and I are present at the hearing of Senator Don Ryan's bill No. SB458 in order to express our disagreement with this bill and to encourage you to vote against it.


First, the law already requires homeschoolers each year to notify their County School Superintendent's Office of their intention to homeschool. The Cascade County Superintendent's website uses the term "register," although their form is headed "notification." These terms are not synonymous. According to Sen. Ryan's bill, registration would allow the numbers of homeschoolers to be included in the ANB for calculating funding for the local public school system. This appears to be using home schools in order to MISREPRESENT the number of public school students so that additional funding is received from the federal government without appropriating it to the students included in the count.

Secondly, the bill requires the name and address of the parents and the child. Section 44-2-511. **School enrollment procedures to aid identification of missing children** would be a more logical place to add enrollment requirements of home schools in order to identify and locate missing children. I believe legitimate homeschool parents are concerned about the welfare of children. We are not, however, willing to suspend our parental and privacy rights for a much larger societal issue that is not related to home education.

Thirdly, the bill would require homeschoolers to register at least 7 days prior to the beginning of the FISCAL school year, which equates to June 23. However, it makes no provision for families who move into the state of Montana mid-year or for parents who decide to withdraw their children mid-year for legitimate reasons. Our family moved to Montana in January 2003. We have homeschooled our children since birth and intend to continue doing so. If this bill had been law at that time, would we have been required by law to enroll our children in a public or parochial school? The current homeschool law seems adequate and covers all circumstances by requiring notification IN the current fiscal school year.

Thank you for allow us to express our concern with this bill. We are satisfied with the current law regarding home schools. We urge you to vote against SB458 in order to maintain the adequate law as it currently stands.

Sincerely,


 Mitchell and Susan Hegg
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